e. Providing a Letter of Comfort from Ministry of Finance confirming the availability of Cess at least till 2030-31.

Extension of golden quadrilateral project upto Kanyakumari

3054. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend the golden quadrilateral project upto Kanyakumari;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time-frame; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Golden Qadrilateral project connects four metros namely Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai and Mumbai, North-South corridor connects Srinagar to Kanyakumari under National Highways Development Programme (NHDP).

Wastage of fuel at toll plazas on NHs

3055. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of wastage of fuel worth crore of rupees per day due to long snarls of vehicles on various toll plazas at National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government is also aware that long queues of vehicles at toll plazas are not only wasting fuel but wasting time also;

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether Government propose to make toll free National Highways in view of wastage of fuel and time; and

(e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (e) Long queues have been reported at some of the toll plazas near major cities during peak hours, which could result in wastage of fuel. No such study has been, however conducted by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). While modernization of toll collection system is envisaged through pilot projects using Electronic Toll Collection Systems, following measures have been adopted to minimize the queuing problems at Toll Plazas:

(i) Minimizing clearance time of a vehicle by toll operators at the plaza.

(ii) By installing Electronic Toll Collection System (ETC) at the plazas as pilot testing project.

(iii) By providing additional lanes.

(iv) By channelizing the traffic in proper way.

(v) The concessionaire has been advised by the NHAI from time to time to take suitable measures for avoiding long queues.

(vi) The matter of traffic in-discipline has been taken up by the NHAI with the District Administration/Traffic police for enforcement of lane discipline among commuters.

Four lane road from BHEL, Ramachandrapuram to Hayatnagar on NH-9

3056. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the proposal of Andhra Pradesh Government for construction of elevated four lane road from BHEL, Ramachandrapuram to Hayatnagar on NH- 9; and

(b) by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) No proposal for construction of elevated four lane road from BHEL, Ramachandrapuram to Hayatnagar on NH-9 has been received by the Ministry from Andhra Pradesh Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Security arrangements in school buses

†3057. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether following a school-bus accident in Maharashtra in August, 2009 Government proposes to bring about stringent law to have security arrangements in school buses and for taking action against school-bus operators driving without permit;

(b) whether Government is going to give directions to all State Transport Departments of the country to act stringently so that such accidents do not recur; and

(c) if so, the details of the manner in which it is going to proceed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MAHADEO S. KHANDELA): (a) The State Governments are responsible for grant of permit to various categories of motor vehicles including school buses. They are empowered to attach various conditions while granting such permits keeping in view the need based requirements. Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 provides stringent punishment such as levy of penalty as well as detention/seizure of the motor vehicle under Section 192 A and Section 207 for driving a vehicle without permit. Provision of security arrangement in the school buses is the responsibility of the concerned State Government.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.